

# Derbyshire Gritstone Way Guided Trail

**Tour Style:** Guided trails

**Destinations:** Peak District, United Kingdom & England

**Trip code:** DVLGR

**Trip Walking Grade:** 3



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

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Devised by members of the Derbyshire Area Rambler's Association in 1970, the Derbyshire Gritstone Way takes walkers through meadows, ancient oak woodlands, parkland, and heather clad moors. Discover the Gritstone Edges that run from Chatsworth in the south to Stanage and beyond in the north and expect plenty of easy-to-navigate walks, interesting wildlife, and sweeping panoramas.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

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- Comfortable en-suite accommodation in our country house
- Cream tea on arrival day
- Cooked or continental breakfast every morning
- Daily packed lunches
- Three-course evening meals, plus tea & coffee
- Guided walks with an experienced HF Holidays Leader
- All transport to and from walks where necessary

## HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

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- Exploring the Derwent Valley and famous Gritstone Edges
- Walking the Great Ridge from Lose Hill and over Mam Tor to Edale
- Visiting Chatsworth House on the banks of the River Derwent
- Crossing the iconic Ladybower Dam wall
- Spotting peregrines at Derby Cathedral
- Staying at The Peveril of the Peak, our country house in Thorpe

## TRIP SUITABILITY

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This Guided Walking/Hiking Trail is graded 3 which involves walks/hikes on well-defined paths, though often in hilly or upland areas, or along rugged footpaths. These may be rough and steep in sections and will require a good level of fitness as you will be walking every day. It is your responsibility to ensure you have the relevant fitness required to join this holiday.

### Your fitness

We want you to be confident that you can meet the demands of each walking day and get the most out of your holiday. Please be sure you can manage the mileage and ascent detailed in the daily itineraries. It is important for your own enjoyment, and that of your fellow guests that you can maintain the pace.

It makes a lot of sense to spend time getting some additional exercise before your holiday. We suggest that you try to fit in a number of longer walks, including some on hilly terrain. Other exercises such as cycling, jogging and swimming are also excellent for developing increased stamina.



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## ITINERARY

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### Day 1: Arrival Day

You're welcome to check in from 4pm onwards. Enjoy a complimentary cream tea on arrival.

### Day 2: Derby To Belper

From Derby Cathedral the route embraces The Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage route and follows the River Derwent. We take a brief visit to the Cathedral to view the peregrines and then on past Lombe's Silk Mill erected in 1717, the earliest factory in the world. Leaving the urban environment, we walk through Darley Park and Darley Abbey village, home of Evan's cotton mill settlement. Turf fields are crossed to pass through the pretty village of Breadsall en route to Little Eaton, once the terminus of various horse-drawn tramways that linked the coalfield to a spur of the Derby Canal. A climb to Holbrook before descending through Jedidiah Strutt's cotton mill village of Milford and an ascent of The Chevin (part of the ancient Portway route) and a descent to Belper. Good footpaths and lanes throughout.

11½ miles (18 km) with 1200 feet (390m) of ascent.

### Day 3: Belper To Cromford

Leaving Belper we pass the Wyver Lane Nature Reserve home to numerous wetland species of bird. Picking up a section of the Midshires Way we pass through Shining Cliff Woods and delightful Alderwasley Park. Continuing high above the Derwent Valley with views East to Crich Stand and ahead to Alport Heights. We pick up historic Intake Lane which was used to transport much of the material required to build the Mills at Cromford. From Bolehill we descend the Sheep Pasture Incline to High Peak Junction (Eastern Terminus of the amazing High Peak Railway). A final trek along The Cromford Canal takes us to Sir Richard Arkwright's Cotton Mills at Cromford (with the option of the village trail to explore).

9 miles (14½ km) with 1400 feet (430m) of ascent.

### Day 4: Cromford To Rowsley

A steep ascent takes us out of Cromford onto Bilberry Knoll and onto the fine viewpoint of Riber Castle. Descending to pass through the historic spa town of Matlock, home to John Smedley's Hydro (now Derbyshire's County Hall). The Derwent Valley Heritage way is followed along the river before an ascent of Oaker Hill, the Peak District really begins to shine as we climb to the high plateau of Stanton Moor and its wealth of historical sites including numerous burial mounds and barrows. Quarrying and Lead Mining were the major industries here. After the Trig Point we visit Nine Ladies Stone Circle before descending, with views of the Derbyshire Wye Valley, to Rowsley at the confluence of the Wye and Derwent rivers.

11½ miles (18 km) with 1900 feet (590m) of ascent.

### Day 5: Rowsley To Grindleford

Field paths from Rowsley take us to Beeley village and then we enter Chatsworth Park. From Chatsworth House an ascent to The Hunting Tower, a traverse of Dobb Edge then across to Nelson's monument on Birchen's Edge and then to Wellington's Monument on Baslow Edge. Passing the Eagle Stone, a prominent local landmark, means the hard work of the day is done. Our route hugs the top of Curbar and Froggatt Edges with wide ranging views west towards the plateau of the White Peak. We'll look down on 'Colditz' and admire Chatsworth's Emperor Fountain from a distance as the full grandeur of the Peak district begins to unfold before descending into Grindleford.

12 miles (19 km) with 1650 feet (500m) of ascent.

## Day 6: Grindleford To Yorkshire Bridge, Bamford

The brook-side ascent through steep sided Padley Gorge with its ancient oak woodland takes us into the National Trust managed Longshaw Estate home of the imposing Longshaw Lodge built by the Duke of Rutland. We follow Burbage Brook heading for the skyline of Burbage Edge. Open moorland surrounds us as we head for Stanage Edge, used by Himalayan mountaineers for their training in the 1960s. We see evidence of ancient packhorse ways that used to cross this Pennine wilderness area – the call of the red grouse often the only sound hereabouts. The day's finish ascends Bamford Edge to Great Tor looking down on the spectacular Upper Derwent Valley and the famous Derwent Dams (training ground of 'The Dambusters'.)

11 miles (17 km) with 1900 feet (590m) of ascent.

## Day 7: Yorkshire Bridge, Bamford To Edale

From Yorkshire Bridge, Bamford we cross the iconic Ladybower Dam wall and ascend to the summit of Win Hill giving superb views of the Hope Valley, Upper Derwent Valley and across to the Kinder Plateau. A descent to cross the Vale of Edale near Townhead and then another steep ascent to the summit of Lose Hill where we meet the Great Ridge. The walk follows Back Tor, then Hollins Cross (an ancient track-way through the lowest point of the ridge) and on to Mam Tor our final and fittingly highest summit of the route, the site of an Iron Age hill fort. Below us we see the effects of the 'Shivering Mountain' on the old main road and views south towards Winnats Pass and Castleton village. The descent is to Edale village in the stunning Vale of Edale with the National Park Information Centre with its exhibition of Moorland Management and The Nag's Head Pub – start of The Pennine Way.

9½ miles (15 km) with 2500 feet (770m) of ascent.

## Day 8: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

## ACCOMMODATION

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### The Peveril Of The Peak

For those easily seduced by the charm of the Peak District, this characterful country house is a dealbreaker. Set in the tiny village of Thorpe, you'll be less than a mile from the famous Dovedale Stepping Stones – a series of 16 limestone-capped stones that were laid out in the 19th century to allow for a safe crossing over the River Dove. There's plenty of big-name attractions nearby, most fabulously the Twelve Apostles that is best viewed from the limestone promontory known as Lover's Leap. And there's no shortage of walking thrills, either, especially around the Roaches and the impressive Stanage Edge. Equally fabulous is the cone-shaped Thorpe Cloud, a limestone hill on the southern end of Dovedale and along the rolling green hills of the Staffordshire/ Derbyshire border.

### Country House Accommodation

#### Rooms

Designed with your comfort in mind, The Peveril of the Peak has 46 well-appointed guest rooms available in three categories: Classic, Premium, and Superior.

**Classic Rooms** are comfortable en-suite guest rooms, ideal for a peaceful night's sleep. Amenities include free Wi-Fi, tea and coffee-making facilities, toiletries (hand wash, shampoo, and shower gel), and a TV.

**Premium Rooms** are more spacious en-suite guest rooms\*. Amenities include free Wi-Fi, tea and coffee-making facilities, toiletries (hand wash, shampoo, body lotion, shower gel), and a 32-inch TV. Extras include bathrobes, slippers, and comfortable mattresses.

**Superior Rooms** are even more spacious en-suite guest rooms offering upgraded views of the surroundings\*. Amenities include free Wi-Fi, tea and coffee-making facilities, toiletries (hand wash, shampoo, body lotion, shower gel), and a 32-inch TV. Extras include bathrobes, slippers, and comfortable mattresses.

**We love:** Room 2 on the ground floor for its extra space (it also has a door opening on to the grounds). Also lovely is the Chatsworth Room for its four-poster bed.

The **Choose Your Room** service is available at our UK country houses, allowing you the option of choosing and confirming a specific room for an extra charge of £30 per room. This is subject to availability. Upgrade supplements apply.

### Check in & check out

You are welcome to check in from **4:00pm at the earliest**. On arrival, you'll enjoy a complimentary cream tea and get to meet your fellow guests, our HF Holidays Leaders, and the rest of the friendly team.

On the day of departure, we kindly ask all guests to check out by **10:00am**. You'll be asked to settle your bill prior to leaving. You may, of course, make a charitable donation to our HF Holidays Pathways Fund if you wish. Please note that we only accept card payments.

### Room supplements

Superior	Premium single	Premium double/twin	Choose your room
£25 pppn	£20 pppn	£20 pppn	£30 per room

\*Views and layout reflect each properties unique character and location

## About Your Stay

### A warm welcome

We want you to feel comfortable from the moment you arrive. You'll find a welcome pack in your room with guest registration forms, menus, order forms for dinners and picnic lunches, the Wi-Fi password, and the front door code. Our houses are locked at night, so we recommend noting the Duty Manager's number on arrival in case of an emergency (or getting locked out).

### Evening entertainment

While evening entertainment varies from house to house, the HF Holidays Big Pub Quiz held after dinner on Wednesdays is a weekly staple. Your HF Holidays Leader may be around for tips on guided and self-guided walking routes as well as visit-worthy local attractions.

### Walks talks

Our HF Holidays Leaders host guided walking information briefings before dinner on arrival days. This is followed by a group Walks Talk for information on the following day's walking delights (held before dinner every evening). Self-guided walking guests are, of course, welcome.

### The walking day

Prior to setting off on walks, your HF Holidays Leader will run you through a short safety briefing. There's also an up-to-date weather forecast on display at the house to ensure you have appropriate clothing and footwear. If you choose to do your own walks or are on a self-guided walking holiday, we ask that you please complete an Independent Walker Card each day. These can be found near the Discovery Point in the house.

## Food & Drink

Led by experienced chefs, we serve a wide range of dishes made with fresh and seasonal ingredients. We always aim to source the best produce available and use home-grown herbs and vegetables from our own gardens whenever possible. Additionally, we have a licensed bar with beers, soft drinks, and a superb selection of spirits. Full-board comes as standard and includes a cream tea on arrival and a hearty breakfast on departure day.

HF Holidays understands the importance of managing allergens effectively to ensure food is safe for guests with food allergies. Whilst we are always able to confidently inform guests which allergens are present in our ingredients and dishes, we are unable to guarantee absolute freedom from the 14 main allergens in our kitchens. Vegetarian and vegan menu choices are available. If you have allergies, food intolerances, or any special dietary requirements, please inform our reservation team at the time of booking.

## Accessibility

For accessibility and assistance information, please contact our expert team on [020 3974 8865](tel:02039748865) or view the accessibility information online for [The Peveril of the Peak](#)

## TRAVEL DETAILS

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### Address

The Peveril of the Peak  
Thorpe  
Dovedale  
Ashbourne  
Derbyshire DE6 2AW

Tel: [+44 \(0\)1335 350396](tel:+44(0)1335350396)

### By Train

The nearest stations are Derby or Buxton.

Check National Rail for train times and routes.

### By Taxi

From Buxton railway station a taxi takes approximately 35 minutes.

From Derby railway station the 18-mile journey takes approximately 40 minutes.

For pricing, please contact Ashbourne Taxis directly.

#### Ashbourne Taxis

You can pre-book a taxi from our recommended company, Ashbourne Taxis\*. We recommend booking your taxi at least seven days in advance by contacting:

Tel: [+44 \(0\)1335 345198](tel:+44(0)1335345198) / [+44 \(0\)7398 783706](tel:+44(0)7398783706)

Email: [ashbourne-taxis@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ashbourne-taxis@hotmail.co.uk)

A return journey can be arranged on your behalf by the HF Holidays House Manager at The Peveril of the Peak.

\*Ashbourne Taxis is not owned or managed by HF Holidays.

## By Bus

There is a bus service as far as Ashbourne, about three miles from The Peveril of the Peak. You'll need to take a taxi from Ashbourne, taking around 10 minutes, or use the Derbyshire Connect Service (telephone [+44 \(0\)1335 342951](tel:+44(0)1335342951)).

From Buxton you can use the 442 service or from Derby catch the SWI service.

Check online for up-to-date bus times.

## By Car

### From the south

Leave the M1 at junction 24 and head to Ashbourne via the A50 and A515. Continue north on the A515 towards Buxton. One mile north of Ashbourne turn left, signposted to Thorpe, Dovedale, and Ilam. After a further two miles the road bends sharply left by the Old Dog pub. The Peveril of the Peak is at the bottom of the hill.

### From Buxton

Take the A515 south towards Ashbourne. After 17 miles turn right at the crossroads following signs to Thorpe. After one mile turn right by the Old Dog pub. You'll find The Peveril of the Peak at the bottom of the hill.

### From the west

Leave the M6 at junction 15 and head via the A50, Cheadle (A521), and Oakamoor (A5417) to the A52. At the junction of the A52 and the A523 take the minor road signposted to Ilam. After 1.5 miles turn left and descend the hill. Cross the bridge at Ilam, turn right, and follow the road through Dovedale and Thorpe village. The Peveril of the Peak is on the left-hand side at the end of the village.

## By Air

The nearest airport is East Midlands Airport.

We recommend pre-booking a taxi direct to The Peveril of the Peak, which is about 30 minutes away.

From London Luton Airport you'll need to take the shuttle bus to Luton Airport Parkway station, then catch the train to Derby with one change at Leicester.

From Manchester International Airport there are trains every hour to Buxton with one change at Manchester Piccadilly. Allow one hour 40 minutes to Buxton.

Flying to London Heathrow Airport is another option but you'll need to allow three hours to reach Derby. From Heathrow first take the Piccadilly line to London St Pancras. From here take a train direct to Derby.

National Rail has up-to-date train information.

## LOCAL AREA

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Whether you're enjoying a guided or self-guided walking holiday, there's always the opportunity to linger for longer. Here's our pick of the very best things to see and do within easy travelling distance of The Peveril of the Peak.

### Dovedale

Less than a mile away, the limestone valley of Dovedale steals the limelight as one of the best-loved – and most visited – beauty spots in the Peak District National Park. Don't miss the famous stepping stones located about half a mile from the car park.

## Ashbourne

Approximately three miles away, this market town charms with cobbled streets, interesting Tudor and Georgian buildings, lovely shops and cafés, and the spectacular St. Oswald's Church – one of Derbyshire's loveliest famed for its 212-foot spire.

## Chatsworth House

Home of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, this magnificent 17th century mansion is set in over 1,000 acres of stunning parkland and formal gardens. Inside, there's over 30 rooms to explore, including the State Rooms, Sculpture Gallery, and Painted Hall.

## Crich Tramway Village

Just a 45-minute drive away, this recreated Edwardian-style village and home to the National Tramway Museum is located near the village of Crich. Highlights include the woodland walk, sculpture trail, and collection of over 60 trams built between 1873 and 1982.

## Buxton

As England's highest market spa town at 1,000 feet above sea level, there's more to this place than water. Must-see sights include the Devonshire Dome building, the Edwardian Opera House, and Poole's Cavern – a two-million-year-old natural limestone cave.

## Castleton

Located at the head of the Hope Valley in the heart of the Peak District National Park, this beautiful village is as famous for its semi-precious stone, Blue John, as for its show cave superstars: Peak Cavern, Blue John Cavern, Speedwell Cavern, and Treak Cliff Cavern.

## Bakewell

There's more to this market town on the banks of the River Wye than jam-filled pastry. The best attractions include the honey-coloured stone houses, specialist markets, Lovelock Bridge, and the famous summer carnival reputed as the biggest in Derbyshire.

## Alton Towers

Just a 25-minute drive away, this Staffordshire theme park is perfect for those with adventurous and excitable kids in tow. Thrillseekers can enjoy over 40 rides (including 10 rollercoasters) as well as a water park. There's entertainment for younger children, too.

## Cromford Mills

Part of the UNESCO-listed Derwent Valley Mills, the world's first water-powered cotton spinning mill developed by Richard Arkwright in 1771 is known as the birthplace of the modern factory system. The mill museum and visitor centre are both visit-worthy.

## Haddon Hall

Overlooking the River Wye, this fairytale-like manor house with its fortified exterior dates from the 12th century. Every part of the property is steeped in history, but the banqueting hall, chapel, and kitchens are particularly worth exploring.



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## USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

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### Holiday Information

We try to create a relaxed atmosphere on the walk but please listen to safety instructions from your leader.

Keep members of the group in view especially when weather or visibility is poor. If you leave the group, then your leader will no longer have responsibility for you. Our leaders consider the safety of the group as a whole and are likely to be more cautious over potential risks such as bad weather.

### Essential Information

The UK has a famously unpredictable climate so it's best to be prepared for weather that's sunny one minute and raining the next. To make it easier, here's a list of items you should consider packing.

#### Essentials

- Suitable footwear such as waterproof walking boots that provide ankle support and good grip
- Waterproof and windproof jacket
- Comfortable clothing (jeans & waterproof capes are not suitable)
- Mid-layer(s) to keep you warm. Fleeeces make a good choice
- Waterproof overtrousers
- Gloves and a warm hat
- Rucksack with waterproof liner
- Flask for hot drinks
- Water bottle (at least 1 litre capacity)
- Sunscreen
- UV sunglasses

#### Recommended

- Several base layers (long-sleeve or short-sleeve)
- Cushioned walking socks to avoid blisters
- First aid kit, including plasters and insect repellent
- Sit mat
- Waterproof pouch for valuables
- Rubbish bag (remember to always leave no trace)
- Wallet/purse
- Camera
- First-aid kit

### Useful Information

#### Ticks

Ticks are tiny creatures that live in vegetation and can attach themselves to passing animals or walkers and may carry a risk of Lyme Disease. Please refer to NHS advice and guidelines for information prior to your holiday.

Your trail leader will carry all the necessary maps and guides. For your own interest you may consider buying or looking at some of the following:

1:25,000 Maps: OL 1; OL24; OL259

1.50,000 Map: Buxton 119

The Derwent Valley Mills and their communities - about industrial archaeology and the World Heritage site.

Cromford Revisited by Doreen Buxton & Christopher Charlton.

The Peak District National Park guide for a general overview of the area & the geology of the Dark Peak

<http://www.derbyramblers.org.uk/articles/walkingroutes/72-the-derbyshire-gritstone-way.html>

## TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

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These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

**Document produced:** 09-09-2024

